

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1.-46. (Canceled)

47. (Currently Amended) A computerized method comprising:

creating, by a channel server, ~~a channel to distribute software comprising~~ a hierarchical list of one or more channel clients and one or more tasks assigned to each one of the channel clients;

receiving, by each one of the channel clients from the channel server, installation files for ~~[[the]]~~ a channel client component;

receiving, by each one of the channel clients from the channel server, installation files for a service, wherein the service is associated with the channel client component;

installing, by each one of the channel clients, the installation files for the channel client component and the installation files for the service; and

using the channel client component and the service to requesting request, by the channel client from the channel server, one or more tasks for deployment on the channel client.

48. (Original) The computerized method of claim 47, wherein the channel client performs the actions of receiving through a direct network connection with the channel server.

49. (Original) The computerized method of claim 47, wherein the channel client performs the actions of receiving through a subscription file.

50. (Original) The computerized method of claim 49, wherein the subscription file is received by e-mail.

51. (Original) The computerized method of claim 49, wherein the subscription file is received through a web page.

52. (Original) The computerized method of claim 49, wherein the subscription file is received through a login script.

53. (Original) The computerized method of claim 47, further comprising automatically contacting the channel server by the channel client to receive software.

54. (Original) A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 47.

55. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
a memory;
a central processing unit; and
computer executable instructions executed by the central processing unit from the memory to create ~~a channel to distribute software comprising~~ a list of tasks and deployment instructions for the tasks and to provide a first file to install a channel client component on ~~[[the]]~~ a target computer and to provide a second file to install a service on the target computer, wherein the service is associated with the channel client component, and wherein one or more of the first file and the second file are provided to the target computer over a network.

56. (Original) The apparatus of claim 55, wherein the second file allows the channel client component to be installed without a user logged on to the target computer.

57. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 55, wherein the second file allows one or more channel client components to be installed on a target computer regardless of the user's permissions.

58. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
a memory;
a central processing unit; and
computer executable instructions executed by the central processing unit from the memory to create ~~a channel to distribute software comprising~~ a list of tasks and deployment instructions for the tasks and to provide a first file to install a channel client component on ~~[[the]]~~ a target computer and to provide a second file to install a service on the target computer, wherein the service is associated with the channel client component, and wherein one or more of the first file and the second file are provided to the target computer through a subscription file.
59. (Original) The apparatus of claim 58, wherein the second file allows the channel client component to be installed without a user logged on to the target computer.
60. (Original) The apparatus of claim 58, wherein the second file allows one or more channel client components to be installed on a target computer regardless of the user's permissions.
61. (New) The computerized method of claim 47, wherein the one or more tasks for deployment include a file that is installed on the channel client.
62. (New) The computerized method of claim 47, wherein the one or more tasks for deployment include a script that is run at the channel client.
63. (New) The computerized method of claim 47, wherein the one or more tasks for deployment include a command that is run at the channel client.

64. (New) A computerized method for distributing tasks from a channel server to one or more channel clients, comprising:

creating, on the channel server, a hierarchical list of the one or more channel clients and one or more tasks assigned to each one of the channel clients;

sending installation files for a channel client component to each of the channel clients;

sending installation files for a channel client service to each of the channel clients, wherein the channel client service is associated with the channel client component;

installing, at each one of the channel clients, the channel client component and the installation files for the service using the installation files; and

receiving, from the channel clients, requests for the one or more tasks assigned to each one of the channel clients for deployment on the requesting channel client.

65. (New) A computerized method comprising:

receiving, at a channel client from a channel server, installation files for a channel client component;

receiving, at the channel clients from the channel server, installation files for a service, wherein the service is associated with the channel client component;

installing, at the channel client, the channel client component and the installation files for the service using the installation files; and

requesting, by the channel client, one or more tasks for deployment from the channel server, wherein the requesting uses at least one of the channel client component or the service, and wherein the one or more tasks for deployment are associated with the channel client using a hierarchical list of channel clients and tasks assigned to each channel client, wherein the hierarchical list is managed at the channel server.

66. (New) A computerized method comprising:

creating, on a channel server, a channel to distribute software, wherein the channel is a data structure comprising a hierarchical list of one or more channel clients and one or more tasks assigned to each one of the channel clients;

receiving, at each one of the channel clients from the channel server, installation files for the channel client component;

receiving, at each one of the channel clients from the channel server, installation files for a service;

installing, at each one of the channel clients, the installation files for the channel client component and the installation files for the service; and

requesting, by the channel client from the channel server, one or more tasks for deployment on the channel client.